The plant is stated to have commenced regular operations only from August, 96. In August and September, 96 adequate supplies of coal could not be maintained. However, regular coal supplies from October, 96 are being made to this unit. The details regarding demand and coal supply to FCI from August, 96 till 21st November, 1996 are given below:—

(Fig. in lakh tonnes) (Date provisional)

Month	Demand	Supply	%age
August, 96	0.50	0.18	36
September, 96	0.50	0.43	86
October, 96	0.50	0.48	96
November, 96 (till 21st)	0.35	0.35	100

(b) SCCL have reported that the production in opencast mines during the monsoon season does get affected. The shortfall in production from opencast mines during the rainy season is made up to some extent by despatching coal from the ground stocks in the company. The consumers are also expected to build up adequate stocks of coal before the onset of monsoon to take care of the reduced supplies which are expected during this period.

Proposals envisaging foreign direct investment

935. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of proposals envisaging a foreign direct investment of Rs. 2428 crores and projected export earnings of Rs. 419 crores have been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, names of such proposals, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to invite FDI proposals from Assam too for smooth growth of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A statement showing such proposals, state-wise and Union Territory-wise is attached as Annexure. *[See Appendix* 179, *Annexure No* 18]

Choice of location of projects depends on the commercial judgement of investors. It depends on the availability of adequate and dependable infrastructure facilities such as Power, Land, Water etc. The State Governments also provide incentives and subsidies for attracting investment as industrial development within the State/Union Territory is their responsibility. Many State Governments have been actively encouraging foreign investment through various promotional measures The Central Government supports and supplements such efforts of all State Governments.

Government constantly reviews the policy framework for foreign investment so as to make it increasingly investor-friendly and internationally competitive.

Lack of modern infrastrnctural facilities in the coal mines to prevent accidents

936. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a number of coal mines disasters in the country taking a heavy toll of life, Government have critically examined the lack of infrastructure in the coal mines to prevent the mine accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the coal mines where dismal conditions continue to prevail with primitive infrastructure; and

(c) the strategy contemplated by the Government to provide modern infrastructure in the coal mines in a phased manner to prevent mine disasters?

THE MINISTER .OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY-OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under the Mines Act, 1952, is the statutory authority to enforce safety provisions in all the mines and all mines are regularly inspected by the officers of DGMS.

Wherever there occurs an accident involving a large number of casualties, the Government constitutes a Court of Inquiry

under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 to ascertain the causes and circumstances attending the accident. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Court of Inquiry necessary action, where necessary, is initiated.

After the fire disaster in January 1994 in New Kenda colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited, the Government got the safety status of all the mines of Coal India Limited examined through a special safety audit. Coal companies took corrective action to rectify the deficiencies revealed by the safety audit. Corrective action on an on-going basis is being taken based on the safety audit reports.

After the inundation accident at Gaslitand and other mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd, (BCCL) in September, I99S, some of the mines of BCCL were declared seasonal by DGMS.

.(c) Follow-up steps arc being taken to improve the safety status in coal mines:—

(1) The internal safety organisation has been strengthened by providing additional powers for enforcement of safety practices.

(2) System of periodic safety audit has been introduced.

(3) Close monitoring of safety status of highly gassy mines and fiery mines is being done.

(4) Timber support is being phased out with steel support.

(5) Telecommunication from underground mines to the surface is being introduced in a phased manner.

(6) A large number of high head high capacity pumps have been produced for emergency dewatcring.

(7) Automatic methane and fire alarms have been provided in degree III gassy mines and fiery mines.

(8) Orders have been placed for highly capital intensive safety Equipment like large diameter rescue drill and operation and maintenance personnel have been selected

(9) Additional rescue rooms have been planned so that rescue teams are able to reach any mine within 30 minutes of receiving any information of emergency.

Special assistance to mentally impaired persons

937. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been or are being launched for special assistance to those mentally impaired persons who. according to the doctors attending on them can be helped with social, financial and other support to stand on their own feet and lead a life with dignity:

(b) if so. the details in this regard:

(c) the Government's policy in regard to support maintenance and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded and impaired persons; and

(d) the estimated number of such persons'.'

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) Apart from the National Institute for Mentally Handicapped Secundcrabad, set up primarily to train professionals to provide services of rehabilitation & special education for the Mentally Handicapped, benefits from the following Schemes for the Welfare of the Disabled being adminstered by Ministry of Welfare through Non-Governmental Organisations also go to mentally retarded persons:—

(1) Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled;

(2) Assistance to Organisations for Esablishmcnt and Development of Special Schools for Handicapped Children; and

(3) Assistance to Organisations for Persons with cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation for Manpower Development. Ministry of Human Resource Development also administers a Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children including Mentally Handicapped.

A National Trust is proposed to be set up for providing total care to persons suffering from mental retardation and cerebral palsy and also to manage the properties bequeathed to the mentally retarded person.